

Meeting minutes

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
April 19, 2006, MSU Henry Center, East Lansing

Welcome continuing and new members

This initial meeting of the Phase II GWCAC was attended by 9 council members and 5 guests. Announcement of the 4 new members is still pending but we expect them to be on board by our next (May) meeting. A listing of attendees is attached.

GWCAC meeting attendees, April 19, 2006

Council Members

Paul Seelbach	MDNR	734 663 3554	seelbacp@michigan.gov
Kurt Heise	Wayne Co	313 224 3631	kheise@co.wayne.mi.us
Jim Cleland	MDEQ	517 241 1287	clelandj@michigan.gov
Mike Newman	MAA	517 381 1732	mnewman@miagg.org
Rod Mersino	MDI	810 7301121	rod@mersino.com
Michael Gregg	MDA	517 373 9802	greggm@michigan.gov
Fred Henningsen	Michiana Irrig Assn	269 467 7426	greenlandfarms@Gmail.com
James Clift	MEC	517 487 9539	jamesmec@voyager.net
Jon W. Allan	Consumers Energy	571 788 2475	jwallan@cmsenergy.com

Guests

Bill Maier	Lansing Bd W&L	571 702 6813	wfm@lbwl.com
Frank Ruswick	MDEQ	517 373 6093	ruswickf@michigan.gov
Jim Nicholas	USGS	517 887 8906	jrnichol@usgs.gov
Dave Hamilton	MDEQ-LWMD	517 335 3174	hamiltod@michigan.gov
Jim Bredin	MDEQ-OGL	517 335 4232	bredinj@michigan.gov

Organizational principles

Discussion on most points was postponed until the next (May) meeting, with the expectation of having full member attendance at that time. Heise did explain that the council now has a new set tasks and deadlines; these are outlined in the section below. Seelbach noted that the council webpage was in process of being moved from the DEQ website to the DNR website, and that a link will remain at the original site.

We agreed on having monthly council meetings. Some of these may be replaced by subcommittee meetings as the need arises. The next 3 meetings were scheduled for the 3rd Friday of each month: May 19th, June 16th, and July 21st. The May meeting will be at Constitution Hall (DEQ office), downtown Lansing.

Presentation—Prototype framework for water withdrawal assessment tool

Hamilton described the ideas for an approach to developing a statewide water withdrawal assessment tool. This initial approach was formulated by a technical working group during the discussions over the 2006 legislation and was presented as a starting point for the council and its delegated technical committee. The powerpoint presentation will be posted on the council website.

Some discussion followed on: the distinction between the science and policy elements of an assessment tool, and council responsibilities for each; use of the tool for initial screening vs subsequent regulatory analyses; and technology development needs and timelines. It was noted that Hamilton might need to give a similar presentation to those council members who were absent.

Newman suggested that the council sponsor an independent science review of the methods employed in the assessment tool, to assure that these methods fall within the context of currently accepted science and to broaden the perspectives of the technical committee and the council. Seelbach agreed to plan for this science review.

Funding issues

A supplemental bill is in the legislature that will provide \$500,000 to MDNR for development of the assessment tool. The council requested the initial technical committee leads-- Hamilton, Nicholas, Seelbach – to prepare a study plan and budget and communicate this to the council asap, in light of the short time frame for tool completion.

Tasks, and subcommittee and tech support structures

The council had initial discussions of the following task list, developed from the 2006 legislation and the council's 2005 report recommendations. It expected that plans for each task will be fully developed at the next (May) meeting. It was agreed that each task might have both a council subcommittee and a small technical group assigned to it; and that the technical groups together would comprise the 'Technical Advisory Panel'.

Scope needs to implement the Council's 2005 recommendations

We agreed that a subcommittee should develop this for review by the council, Sept 2006.

Oversee development of a statewide water withdrawal assessment tool

We agreed that a subcommittee would work with the technical group of Hamilton, Nicholas, Seelbach, and others TBD. The technical group is to draft a study plan and a budget for the council asap.

Study question of mitigation of adverse impacts

Allan suggested brainstorming approach, including workshop and follow up surveys.

Develop criteria and indicators to evaluate sustainability

